

Working Draft
Washington State Board of Health
Questions to Consider when Planning Board Work
Based on discussion at July 10, 2001 work session

Are the key assumptions driving the Board's strategies and goals based on good data and sound science?

Is the Board's involvement citizen-initiated or is the issue clearly important to some segment of the citizenry?

Is there a clear link to the Board's statutory authority?

Does the timing of the work take advantage of:

- a window of opportunity for the issue's development?
- any sense of urgency around the issue?

Does the work plan

- accurately define the problem?
- clearly identify roles and articulation?
- consider the full complexity of the issue and different perspectives (geographical, cultural, etc.)?
- engage multiple partners?
- draw on skilled expertise of others?
- pull together multiple disciplines?
- realistically assess the adequacy of available resources?
- catalyze attention to the issue?
- encourage public engagement?

Is the workgroup that comprises committee members and the lead staff person:

- willing to take strategic risks to advance the issue?
- willing to tackle the tough issues involved?
- open to listening to and hearing from all sides?
- trusted by most other Board members and significant external partners?
- able to count on support from other Board members when tough situations develop?
- personally engaged in the issue?

Is there a way to communicate how the issue is practically and tangibly relevant to people's perceived interests?

Does the work increase the Board's ability to promote and advance the vision and mission of public health?